SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

ESCALATION TO THE HICHEST RUNG AND TUMBLE WITH THE LADDER

IN only 8 weeks beginning April 1, 1972, the South Viet Nam PLAF have written off or badly mauled 7 out of total of 13 Divisions of Saigon main force — one important half of the backbone of "Vietnamization." Meanwhile their three spearheads have applied heavy pressure on, or breach various US-Saigon strengthened forward defence perimeters, closed in on the old imperial capital Hue, encircled or seriously threatened Kon Tum and An Loc. They have been poised against the other half, already cranky but still perilously stretched thin, of the backbone of Nixon's strategy. Quang Tri province has been liberated in its entirety. The coastal plains of the centre of Central Viet Nam like Binh Dinh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Phu Yen, etc., the Eastern area of South Viet Nam proper consisting of Phuoc Tuy, Ba Ria, Tay Ninh, Thu Dau Mot, Gia Dinh, etc., the Mekong Delta have been in the throes of an anti pacification turmoil.

Clearly enough, the forces of revolution are devastatingly on the offensive, surrounding and menacing to crush the enemy whereas the latter is on the defensive, confused and deliquescent. There is every chance that the current wave of offensives and uprisings will not stop there and will roll on relentlessly until the remnants of the "Vietnamization" mercenaries are completely swept away.

ALL such happenings have not come to Mr Nixon as a surprise. According to the US press, as early as when only a presidential hopeful, he already contemplated with deep foresight in a military memo "an escalation in the form of the mining and blockade of Haiphong and a bombing campaign against North Viet Nam" as an expedient when the adventurous aggression against South Viet Nam was in deep waters.

With equal providence, he also envisaged a concurrent "diplomatic escalation" to bring pressure to bear on the adversary.

Everyone still remembers his October 1971 cynical exercise in neo-colonialist politics which had Nguyen Van Thieu win in a one-man race.

Unfortunately time and place is not propitious for the US president. The "Vietnamized" war has turned out to be a great disaster for him at least at this juncture, when the highest rung of the military, political and diplomatic ladder has been climbed to no avail and when the electioneering campaign is switching into high gear.

And the inevitable will come to pass: either he will have to de-escalate all the way down or tumble with the ladder.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

PRG COUNCIL'S COMMUNIQUÉ:

IMMEDIATE TASKS:

- STEPPING UP THE HIGH TIDE OF OFFENSIVES AND UPRISINGS
- BUILDING AND CONSOLIDATING THE LIBERATED ZONE

Political struggle in South Viet Nam urban centres

STILL unquiet with the population of South Viet Nam's occupied zone penned up in real and disguised concentration camps, Nguyen Van Thieu asked the Saigon Parliament for full powers to rule with decrees and proclaimed "nine security measures". All that was ostensibly intended to save Nixon's crumbling Vietnamization policy.

As a matter of fact, the wicked ruling clique finds itself in the face of the explosive wrath of the urban population which might topple it at any time. Townsfolk are engaged in momentous drives against the draft, the beefing up of combat troops, emergency laws, the requisition of property, and for the respect of democratic liberties, better living standards, peace and independence, for Thieu's resignation and US troop withdrawal.

The strongest of all, expectedly, is the fight against pressganging and the augmentation of combat troops. It involves people of all walks of life. In Saigon and many provincial capitals, students, their parents and men and women of the teaching profession vociferously describe Thieu's measures to this effect as meant to liquidate educational establishments and education itself. In labouring town district, people—including Saigon army veterans, deserters and war wounded—organize themselves into "self-defence forces" whose task consists in signalling the irruption of the police (and military police) to capture draft-age people (from 17 to 43 years of age) and in mounting appropriate counteractions. On May 20, thousands of Saigonese went to the city's induction department asking to be exempted from military service postponement in their favour. Two days later, 200 young men and students, braving Thieu's curfew order, made a bonfire in Minh Mang University campus, then to the sound of tin casks demonstrated in neighbouring streets against induction. They called on all draft-age persons to rely on their fellow-citizens for organizing anti-impressing drives. Against the police attempting to repress them, they used stone, sticks, pieces of furniture and jellied petrol.

Also in Saigon the Workers' General Trade Union raised its voice, saying that Thieu's military measures had disrupted the normal functioning of its member unions, and further worsened the workers' standard of living. In a rally in Ben Tre city, 300

Saigon students' demonstration against the US-Thieu's impression of the youths into the army

followers of the Cao Dao sect accused Thieu of sending their coreligionists to die on battlefields so as to save American lives. In the provincial capital of Ca Mau thousands of angry people, fighting against the police, broke into induction centres and succeeded in rescueing over 100 drafted youths.

The Saigon Journalists' Trade Union called on the puppet Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem for an appreciable postponement of the military service for press workers. Thieu's measures raised repercussions among civil servants, members of Parliament and functionaries of the armed forces General Staff as well. At a session of the Lower House Defence Committee on May 29, several of its members spoke against the draft and beefing up of combat troops. One of them pointed out that Thieu's order to this effect served as a good prey for corruption and disquieted thousands of families unless the order was amended, he added. The future of 40,000 students from 18 to 22 would be spoilt, and over 20,000 families with members from 39 to 43 would live in wretched conditions, not to mention incalculable political consequences.

Simultaneously, other drives have been unfolding against reactionary economic measures, the requisitioning of people's property and plunders by the Saigon administration in forms of "the rear base support the frontline" campaign, "funds to support our combatants." Dozens of thousands of employees of the Caltex Petroleum Company, the Brasseries Glacières de l'Indochine, Con O and Con Meo battery factories, Don Dat Hospital, Phu Lam Radar Station, Air Viet Nam, etc., held teach-ins and congresses or put out declarations scoring the "nine economic measures," increasing taxes and fines, or demanding employment for workers and lower costs of living for all. Tens of thousands of students and pupils and parents of middle and primary schoolboys and girls in the capitals of Hau Nghia, Tay Ninh, Vinh Long, Rach Gia and other provinces protested against the taking of children's blood to cure wounded puppet soldiers. Fund and rice-gathering drives in many provincial and district schools by local authorities were boycotted. Petty sellers in Saigon strongly oppose Thieu's higher taxes and other predatory economic measures, so much so that his Minister of Economy Pham Kim Ngoc had to admit, "at present traders in Saigon refuse to bring contributions or are seeking every way to avoid or oppose them."

The movement against Thieu's "security measures" and his demanding that the Saigon Parliament vest him with full powers embraces not only the urban population but members of the Lower and Upper Houses and of the client army and administration. Witness the sitting strike of 40 MPs in the Lower House building on May 14 and 15 with these slogans: "If you want to be a dictator, dismiss the National Assembly," "We don't vest President Thieu with full powers," "Full powers: No!" and "To grant full powers means to commit suicide!" More significant is the Upper House's rejection of Thieu's demand in this connection on June 2.

Thus along with the major victories won by the People's Liberation Armed Forces on various battlefields, the fight on the political front against the Thieu fascist regime and US Vietnamization of the war has become deeper and larger in scale. It involves more social segments even civil servants, armymen and MPs weary of the war, eager to see genuine peace and independence for their country free from US troops and Thieu, i.e. the formation of a government standing for peace, neutrality and national concord in order to build a prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed toward national reunification. That is also the earnest desire of all south Vietnamese popular strata.

Oh! Pity for the Lord, Mr Nixon!

ON May 8, 1972, Mr Nixon took utterly vicious measures against North Viet Nam, namely interdicting any supplies from outside by sealing off its ports, and bombing all over its territory.

Foreign ships were given three days to sail off from North Vietnamese ports. After that, no more movement of shipping. An iron fence made of thousands of mines and hundreds of warships will sever that tiny but stubborn land from the rest of the world. And thousands of aircraft of various types will chop off all communication lines and shatter anything North Viet Nam has built on the rubble of a 4-year bombing under Johnson. To get out of that blockade, North Viet Nam must release all US POWs and bow at an internationally supervised cease-fire throughout Indochina. All this done, the US will suspend military actions and pull out its GIs in 4 months.

These are the main points of Mr Nixon's May 8 speech, the most truculent one ever delivered by the "peace president" and "father of the negotiation era"!

But what is his actual intention behind these rash moves? His only aim — he explained — is to end the Indochina war and secure peace by forbidding foreign countries to supply arms to the "international outlaws" living in North Viet Nam. How simple and logical indeed!

Who is the international outlaw, the whole world knows it, and history is there to bear testimony. Mr Nixon needs not use foul words. But this is a mere detail. Let's go to the bottom of the matter, that is his desire to terminate the war. The least one may say of it is that his way of showing it seems far from being realistic. It is impossible for Russia to give herself up to the USA, and she has no reason at all to do so. One hour and a half prior to Mr Nixon's speech it had been pointedly stated by the Russian Defence Minister's re-assurance to North Viet Nam of her aid through to the end.

Of course, North Viet Nam will face bigger losses, but a thing is certain: it will fight on because no alternative is left to it except to capitulate unconditionally. Mr Nixon's game is assuredly that of a "lord." But whether people let him "lord it over" or not, is another question.

That, Mr Nixon knows better than anybody else.

Anyhow, his method diametrically contradicts his boasting of the Vietnamization's success in his April 24 speech. If it made real progress, Mr Nixon would not bring the world to the brink of a World War III on the only ground of protecting South Viet Nam.

Destroying and starving North Viet Nam to protect South Viet Nam is an inhumane process that cannot be accepted by universal conscience. Honest people must come out against the blockade and bombing of North Viet Nam.

In the last part of his speech, Mr Nixon prayed the Lord to help him in these difficult moments.

I myself worship the Christ and ask Mr Nixon not to pray Him. Pity for the Lord! Don't drag Him into this war.

If Mr Nixon really wants to, let him pray Satan.

LY CHANH TRUNG

from the Saigon daily **Dien Tin** (*Telegraph*)
May 11, 1972

o On May 25, the Da Nang Pupils' Association issued a strong statement against the Nguyen Van Thieu administration's arrest and torture of members of the Association's Executive Committee. The victims had gone on hunger strike in protest against the Saigon regime's fascist, dictatorial policies. The Association demanded immediate release of all students, pupils and patriots taken into custody and called on Da Nang pupils to rise up and foil all the regime's fascist moves.

o The Saigon paper "*Van Hoi Moi*" (New Opportunities) denounced in its May 26 issue that in their so-called "campaign for support to the frontline," the US-Saigon rule sent whole convoys of "Red Cross" cars into schools where they forcibly took blood from students and pupils for wounded US-Saigon soldiers. Students and pupils, and their teachers and parents, had to put up a resolute and well-coordinated fight against this savage measure of the enemy.

o Letters were recently sent by Saigon workers' organizations to the Labour Ministry urging the setting up of joint employer-worker committees and councils in enterprises to meet the pressing claims raised by the workers. The letters opposed Thieu's nine fascist measures which included the ban on demonstrations and strikes, thus inciting the employers to indiscriminately lay off workers. There is a consensus of opinion among workers that in spite of the strike ban, all militant methods will be resorted to to uphold the workers' vital rights.

in the cities

o The Saigon Industrial Union announced that as a result of Thieu's nine fascist measures, big deficits were recorded by South Vietnamese industries, especially the textile one. Industrial circles traced their origin to Thieu's harsh exploitation which considerably reduced the people's purchasing power. Meanwhile inordinate imports of foreign goods, especially from the USA, were ordered by the Thieu administration. Saigon industrialists and workers alike demanded an immediate end to the Thieu policy of exploitation, reduce or abolish extortionate taxes, limit to the maximum imported goods with a view to stimulate home production.

o On May 17 a police raid was mounted on pagodas in Tra Vinh township, and 7 Buddhist monks were forcibly inducted. Over 1,000 priests and other people of Vietnamese and Khmer nationalities, from Tra Vinh township, immediately thronged the office of the Tra Vinh governor to urge the arrested and to denounce Thieu's nine fascist measures. The next day, 10,000 bonzes and Vietnamese and Khmer civilians again gathered at the provincial administrative office and opposed forcible draft. The US-Thieu destruction of pagodas and killing of monks through air raids were also denounced. Confronted with this powerful action by the Buddhist clergymen and other people, the provincial quisling authorities had to promise to pay compensations.

o Popular opposition to the US-Thieu impress is now reaching a climax in South Vietnamese cities. People of all walks of life, including Saigon army deserters, war invalids and veterans, join hands and set up self-defence units to be mutually kept informed of every recruiting drive by the administration, thereby to successfully deal with it.

o A petition was addressed on May 27 to Tran Thien Khiem, the puppet Premier, by the South Viet Nam Association of Journalists which stressed, "The administration's order of conscription is having a great impact upon the press, since most members of their Association who play a key role in almost all papers, are of draft age." The representatives of the press insisted that Thieu grants deferments to all journalists and connected workers of military service age.

o On June 6, 32 Saigon progressive organizations including the People's Front for Peace, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live, the Saigon Students' General Association, made public an appeal urging the US and Saigon administration to return to the Paris Conference and seek, together with the DRVN Government and the RSVN PRG, a political solution to the war. "The Saigon authorities should stop the indiscriminate arrest and deportation of patriots, peace fighters and fighters for Viet Nam's independence and self-determination," it added.

o On June 2, the Saigon "Senate" voted against Thieu's "full powers" bill. Many senators bitterly criticized his move as a violation of the "Constitution" he had himself drafted. The passage of such a bill, they underlined, would lead to a camouflaged dictatorship." A legislator declared that "it was time for Thieu to resign if Viet Nam is to have peace soon."

10-point policy towards South Viet Nam's newly-liberated areas

POWER RESTORED TO THE PEOPLE

To shatter US brutal domination, liquidate the quisling regime and build up revolutionary power — such is the first task of the South Vietnamese in newly-liberated areas, and the first of the 10 points of a policy enforced by the revolution with a view to achieving the fundamental objective, and deepest and most pressing aspiration of the South Vietnamese people.

The US imperialists have been waging a most atrocious war of aggression, and have installed a whole apparatus to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and military base and reduce its people to ignominious servitude. The real nature of the quisling rule can be seen in its institutions, regulations and policies and the savagery of those responsible for their application. Forcible enrolment into the Saigon army or into "people's self-defence units" has affected old-agers and teen-agers equally; countless youths and students have been transformed into cannon-fodder for the defence of US interests; innumerable "mopping-up" operations have erased villages, the population's resources have been looted and mass massacres have taken a heavy toll, including old folk, women and new-born babies; forcible concentration of civilians in resettlement centres and strategic hamlets, have subjected millions of innocents to misery and a slow death — all such atrocities are marked by an anti-national, anti-democratic stamp. US-paid puppet authorities and army officers, acting on orders from US "governors," have not flinched from desecrating ancestors' graves and levelling villages, orchards and ricefields to have enough land for the US soldiery to erect military posts, fortifications, bases... Dwelling houses have been liable to searches at any time, citizens to be arrested at any moment, all kinds of gatherings are prohibited, more prisons have been built than schools, "inter-familial groups" set up and placed under the control of a whole net of policemen, cruel thugs, secret agents and spies on the CIA payroll — all this points to the fact that the Saigon regime is but an apparatus of coercion and exploitation directed by a gang of blood-thirsty murderers on top of which is a handful of infamous and greedy traitors. Their dependence on the US is total. From every point of view: military, political, economic, cultural, social..., it is but a regime of US hirelings who betray the interests of the country and the nation.

Untold sacrifices have been made by the South Vietnamese in the course of their gruelling resistance against US aggression and for national independence and the right to live as free men. This long drawn-out effort has borne initial fruits: liberation of vast territories, spreading sometimes over stretches of districts and villages, covering even a whole province. A task of prime importance is the building of revolutionary power for the preservation, consolidation and further expansion of such gains. The revolutionary power has proved its fine nature to the people in newly-liberated areas, through its policies and through their strict implementation by political cadres and revolutionary fighters.

What inspires the admiration and pride of the people in the newly-freed areas is the selfless, highly patriotic deeds of militants, civil servants, armymen of the revolution, which show great attachment to independence and freedom. The new anti-US national salvation administration is free from any US intervention in its internal affairs and a popular power fighting for, and serving, the people's interests. Its determination to foil all enemy sabotage attempts and frenzied counter-attacks, its resolve to defend the people's welfare instill confidence in everyone.

It is fully democratic vis-a-vis the people. All laws and regulations enacted by the enemy to exploit and oppress the people have been cancelled; social injustices, including those between sexes and nationalities, eliminated.

It is the embodiment of national unity and national concord. A vivid proof of this can be found in the application of the ten-point policy of the RSVN PRG towards former members of the Saigon army or administration and towards the families of those forcibly enrolled in the Saigon armed forces.

It has at heart the people's well-being, it mobilizes and organizes them in the resistance to US aggression while fostering their latent capabilities. It pays attention to both the war and national construction. Its cadres and civil servants are recruited from among the people, they were born, have grown up in their midst and been tempered in the crucible of the harrowing confrontation with US aggression; they are devoted heart and soul to the cause of the people and the Fatherland.

Popular power has put an end to life of servitude, suffering and shame. Independent and democratic, it is a tool in the hands of the people in South Viet Nam's newly-liberated areas — true masters of the country — with which to build up and consolidate the free zone, remove all stigmata of the US neo-colonialist regime, frustrate all enemy acts of sabotage, promote a new life where production will be intensified and the anti-US war kept up until total victory.

TAM DUONG

In the newly-freed areas, the local population is happy to elect representatives to the revolutionary power

PRG COUNCIL'S COMMUNIQUE

IMMEDIATE TASKS :

* STEPPING UP THE HIGH TIDE OF OFFENSIVES AND UPRISINGS

* BUILDING AND CONSOLIDATING THE LIBERATED ZONE

AT a moment when our people and the liberation armed forces are dashing forward like a hurricane in the high tide of general offensives and concerted uprisings and repeatedly winning great and splendid victories, on the occasion of the historic day June 6, the PRG Council met under the chairmanship of President Huynh Tan Phat. Representatives of the RSVN PRG Advisory Council took part in the meeting.

The PRG Council reviewed the whole situation in various fields since its session early this year, especially since the offensives and uprisings across South Viet Nam, and outlined the new tasks aimed at stepping up the fight to record many and yet greater victories and completely defeat the US "Vietnamization of the war" policy.

1 — The participants at the meeting unanimously asserted that the assessment of the situation by the last session which led to the high tide of offensives and uprisings on all battlefronts aimed at smashing the US "Vietnamization of the war" policy was very accurate. Our people and liberation armed forces firmly grasping the situation and with high determination and great courage have dashed forward in the flush of victories, dealing stunning blows at the US-Thieu clique and recording many unprecedentedly big victories on different battlefronts across South Viet Nam.

On the military front, our liberation armed forces wiped out and disintegrated the bulk of the seasoned regular troops and coercive force of the enemy, captured and destroyed a large quantity of war means, overran many military sub-sectors and "key-sectors" and raze to the ground thousands of enemy posts, liberated many vast and densely populated areas including the Quang Tri provincial capital, many district towns and townships. Our regular troops have proved their combat capacity in neatly annihilating big units of different arms of the Saigon army. They also smashed many solid defence perimeters and the strongest defence complex of the enemy. The puppet army, though provided with the biggest US air and naval support and covered by an unprecedented number of B.52 sorties, has failed to stop the stormy offensives of our liberation armed forces.

In the rural areas, along with the movement of uprising, the "three-prong" offensive has developed with a new mettle and on the largest ever scale, causing serious setbacks to the enemy "pacification" program, particularly in the plains of Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) and many localities in the Mekong river delta. The movement has become a stirring high tide which has destroyed by big chunks the enemy system of posts, disbanded the "popular defence" force by the tens of thousands, liberated hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets and linked up the liberation areas from one district to another. Our people have enthusiastically built and consolidated the revolutionary administration, endeavoured to develop its role, further stepped up attacks on the enemy and built up the liberated areas, thus creating a more advantageous position and acquiring new strength. In Saigon and other urban centres in South Viet Nam despite unprecedented repression and terror by the enemy in their panic, the struggle against the US aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique has unfolded every day under diversified forms, drawing more and more people of various circles to form a broad front of united actions against the policy of forcible conscription and the nine fascist "security measures" imposed by Thieu. The urban people have sternly condemned the US "Vietnamization of the war" policy and openly demanded the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam, the resignation of Thieu and the formation of a government of national reconciliation and concord, opposed Nixon's "eight-point proposal" and war escalation against the North. The Council asserted that on the political and diplomatic front, the RSVN PRG's seven-point proposal, the two key points of which have been elaborated, has upheld the principle of independence and freedom while reflecting the policy of great national unity. It has vigorously encouraged our countrymen at home and abroad, won over the sympathy of broad sections of the middle strata including political parties and groups, functionaries and armymen of the Saigon regime who desire independence, peace and national concord, thus driving the stubborn and warlike Nguyen Van Thieu clique into unprecedented isolation and aggravating the dispute among the stooges of the US.

Our stand shining with justice and goodwill has enjoyed ever more active support and assistance from the fraternal socialist countries and the world people, including the progressive people in the United States. An unprecedentedly seething movement of struggle has swept the USA and the world protesting Nixon's extremely dangerous escalation of the war against the North. This proves that to support the Vietnamese people's just fight against the US aggressors is considered by the freedom- and justice-loving countries and the progressive mankind as one of their urgent tasks.

2 — The PRG Council also took note of the victories recorded in the political field in furtherance of the ten-point policy regarding those families whose sons and brothers have been drafted into the puppet army as cannon-fodder for the US aggressors and the Saigon ruling circles. This humane and lenient policy stems from the line of great unity and national concord and is creating favorable conditions for those who, for one reason or another, still remain in the enemy ranks to take patriotic actions. That is why many families unhappy for having their sons and brothers drafted in the Saigon army have become a big revolutionary force to persuade the latter to give up the criminal and shameful life. That is why tens of thousands of "popular defence" members regarded by the enemy as their reserve and basic force have quickly disintegrated in the storm of the people's uprisings. Part of them have joined the guerillas or become shock force in the concerted uprisings. Garrisoning troops in many posts surrendered to the PLAF or collectively deserted. Many big units of the regular force revolted. Desertion, disintegration and surrender have reached the biggest dimensions ever known.

In appreciating those great and all-sided victories, the PRG Council asserted that these are extremely heavy blows dealt at the "Vietnamization of the war" policy of the Nixon junta. They have speedily changed the balance of forces between us and the enemy, shaken the whole of the enemy defence and upset their battle array on the South Viet Nam battefield. They have affected a qualitative change of the political situation in favor of our people.

Our new favorable conditions and abilities continue developing. We are ceaselessly enhancing our position of strength and initiative of action. On the contrary, the enemy is driven into a position of defence and passivity and is seriously disintegrating. No scheme, trick, military force, strategy and tactic of the US imperialists can save their "Vietnamization of the war" policy from total failure. The Nixon doctrine's formula "puppet army plus maximum US fire power" has gone bankrupt.

The "Vietnamization" policy has seen its backbone — the puppet army — beaten black and blue and its main strategic measure, namely the "pacification" program, frustrated.

3 — The PRG Council pointed out that though the US imperialists have sustained heavy setbacks, they still stubbornly cling to their criminal policies. They have taken their air war to a high level of intensity and genocide to support the Saigon army, thus piling up their crimes against our people. The heavier setbacks they sustain, the more fascist they become. They have imposed the martial law to step up the repression of the patriotic and democratic forces. They have arrested and detained thousands of people, including many intellectuals, students, artists and newsmen... They are trying their hardest to carry out forcible conscription and migration of the people, scrape up manpower and wealth of the people to cater for the war against the people and to realize the odious scheme of using "Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese." People from 17 to 43 years of age, including the breadearners of families, women and religious persons, are drafted into the army to die for the US aggressors.

Besides, with their "emergency" economic measures, they have exploited our people mercilessly while massively laying off workers. Their monopolistic and war-oriented policies have caused further decline to the South Viet Nam economy.

In order to redress their critical situation and shake our people's determination, the US imperialists have recklessly and frenziedly bombed and shelled North Viet Nam including populated areas in Haiphong and Hanoi, and arrogantly mined the DRVN's ports in defiance of the vehement condemnation by public opinion in the United States and the world against their aggressive war, and regardless of the most elementary principles of international law.

They are deliberately sabotaging the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and plotted out the so-called "eight-point plan for peace" aimed essentially at maintaining the "Vietnamization of the war" policy. They have spared no efforts to maintain their agent Nguyen Van Thieu in power as an instrument to continue their aggressive war and materialize US neo-colonialism in Viet Nam.

4—The PRG Council asserted that the US imperialists' frenzied acts are only desperate acts of a wild beast in its death pangs. They further expose the US setbacks in the policy of "Vietnamization." The more the US imperialists are obdurate, the heavier failure they will sustain.

Our people living under the brutal yoke of the US-Thieu regime are seething with hatred and further strengthening their unity in their fight, are resolutely rising up to chase the US aggressors away and overthrow Nguyen Van Thieu with a view to changing their life. Our people are fully aware that the fight against the above-mentioned policies of the US-Thieu clique is closely linked with the sacred cause for national salvation. Only when the aggressive design of the US imperialists and their henchmen is frustrated and independence and freedom are regained, can an end be put to all these criminal policies, slavery, suffering and mourning.

The PRG Council reasserted the South Vietnamese people's undaunted and staunch spirit and iron-like determination to smash all dark scheme of the US imperialists and their flunkeys. For their fundamental national rights, for their sacred duty toward the Fatherland and for their internationalist obligation vis-a-vis the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples and the national liberation movement in the world, the Vietnamese people are determined to further broaden their unity, persist in their fight, vigorously bring into full play their revolutionary heroism till the US aggressors are forced to quit and the puppet administration to topple with a view to materializing at any cost their unshakable objective of building an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and proceeding toward the peaceful reunification of the country. No brutal and perfidious act of the US imperialists can deviate our people from that objective. No frenzied and bloody act can save the US aggressors and their lackeys from their ignominious and inevitable failure.

5—With the aforesaid will and determination and on the basis of the said situation, the Council unanimously agreed on the following immediate tasks :

Endeavour to bring into full play the leadership of the revolutionary administration at all levels in order to step up the high tide of repeated offensives and simultaneous uprisings on all the battlefields, coordinate with offensives in the diplomatic field to record greater victories and at the same time intensively build and consolidate the liberated zone, actively develop political and armed forces, to vigorously change the balance of forces between us and the enemy, uphold the position of initiative of attacking the enemy in all respects, completely defeat the US imperialists' policy of "Vietnamization of the war" and record total victory.

The Council also unanimously agreed on a number of concrete tasks, especially the strengthening of the leadership of the local revolutionary administration in building the liberated zone in order to safeguard order and security, build up "fighting villages" to resist enemy counter-attacks, promptly stabilize and improve the people's life, push up production and contribute more power and wealth to the resistance war for national salvation.

The Council paid special attention to implementing and developing the influence of the announced policies aimed at broadening the united national front against US aggression, for national salvation.

Continuing our nation's fine tradition of national unity which had been brilliantly advocated by President Ho Chi Minh, the Council solemnly reiterated its policy of faithful and broad unity which has been clearly expounded in the political program of the National Front for Liberation and in many statements and documents of the PRG, namely to be ready to coordinate action with all patriotic organizations and personalities regardless of political and religious differences, regardless of political records in the past provided that they are ready to coordinate in chasing the US aggressors away and overthrowing Nguyen Van Thieu to win independence peace, democracy an neutrality for South Viet Nam.

Also proceeding from the spirit of unity and national concord, the Provisional Revolutionary Government in the seven-point proposal of which the two key points have been elaborated at the Paris Conference, advocates the formation of a provisional government of coalition comprising three components to organize free general election. This is the unchangeable stand of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

In the implementation of the ten-point policy regarding those persons forced by the enemy to hold arms and die in their place, the PRG has given an appropriate treatment to those elements of the Saigon army who have rallied to the people. The PRG earnestly calls on soldiers and officers of the Saigon army to follow the example of the soldiers and officers of the 56 Regiment, 3rd infantry Division, and realize in time the actual situation to resolutely dissociate themselves from the US aggressors and the clique of traitors, their stooges, and give up the humiliating life and return to the nation to save the country and their own life.

6—Celebrating the June 6 anniversary amidst a season of brilliant exploits, the PRG Council warmly commends the great victories recorded by the people and PLAF and decides to reward those armed units, localities and services which have made outstanding contribution to the cause of national salvation in the high tide of offensives and uprisings.

The PRG Council expresses its deepest gratitude to the heroic people in the North who have overcome all sacrifices anp hardships to fulfil their noble duty of the great rear toward the great frontline, readily shared weal and woe with the South Vietnamese people, and determined to join efforts with the latter in the sacred resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. The South Vietnamese people pledge to keep their oath of resolutely wiping out the US aggressors and their henchmen to avenge their countrymen in the North and standing firmly under whatever circumstances on the frontline of the Fatherland to completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

The PRG Council is overjoyed at the militant solidarity and heartfelt sentiments of the peoples and Governments of the fraternal and neighboring Laos and Cambodia and pledges to firmly keep the close militant solidarity, live and die together and jointly resist the common enemy of the three Indochinese peoples till total victory.

The PRG Council warmly hails and thanks the people and governments of the fraternal socialist countries, the people and governments of various countries in the world including the progressive people in the US, who have, for the sake of peace and justice, for the independence and freedom and social progress, expressed their solidarity and their active and wholehearted support for the just fight of the Vietnamese people.

7—In conclusion the PRG Council asserts :

The great victories recorded in the dry season of this year especially the high tide of offensives and uprisings on all battlefields have created a new change in the balance of force between us and the enemy and a new situation and new position very favorable to us.

Acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's teachings "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," the PRG Council calls on all cadres and combatants, the countrymen at home and abroad to seize this favorable situation, hold higher the "Determined to Fight and to Win" banner, overcome every sacrifice and hardship, closely unite, remain highly vigilant and dash forward in the impetus of the new victories, bring into full play our offensive position on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, resolve to frustrate the US scheme of "Vietnamizing" the war, liberate the South, and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples and armed forces of Laos and Cambodia to defeat the US aggressors and their henchmen and achieve total victory in the whole of the Indochinese peninsula.

The US imperialist aggressors will certainly be defeated !

The stooge administration will certainly be toppled !

Total victory will be ours !

A big ammo-dump blown up by the PLAF

For the 82nd birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh (May 19)

THE BIRTHDAY OF INTELLIGENCE

Drawing by Minh Luong

THE comrades who had the idea of publishing the magazine *The New Intellectual* asked me to contribute an article on Uncle Ho to mark his 82nd birth anniversary.

For days I had secluded myself in a shady and wind-swept place, trying hard to write something. I had written and rewritten my story. Not that I'd been wanting the heart to do it but because every detail about him is so nice that I felt reluctant to leave any out.

Recently Premier Pham Van Dong had this to say about the President: "His simple house on stilts consists only of three rooms. Now that his soul has been mingled with the immense spirit of our era, his unassuming cottage is flooded with light and air and fragrant with the scent of flowers from the garden. What a life of pristine simplicity and refinement his was!"

So exalting, Uncle's spirit, the spirit of the times!

So luminous, Uncle's light in which we are bathing!

So pervading, Uncle's flower garden's fragrance!

But only souls of pristine simplicity and refinement are receptive to such a spirit, sensitive to such a light, responsive to such sweetness.

A few days after Uncle's departure from this world, poet To Huu wrote a long dirge which includes these lines:

I'll take you into Uncle's domain

On the paths lined with mango trees whose lily bloom tremble in the light,

To the lake so calm and limpid that fish bubbles can be seen,

Amidst sweet-scented pomelo and orange blossoms and in the coolness of coco foliage.

Uncle's domain, Viet Nam's domain of the past, domain of the present. It is not reserved only for poets but for all. Let every one of us go there, to see what he has left us. Those who are still fond of pomelo and organge blossoms' fragrance will see him walk under the lily blossoms of mango trees and will feel like honey bees.

I still remember that only a few hours after Uncle had passed away, comrade Viet Bang gave a deep sigh in a detention centre of Saigon, surrounded by fences of barbed wire: "Viet Nam's finest product, a titan among titans is gone." His sigh was our sigh, tne sigh of us all, brothers and sisters, a sigh which insufflates added strength to the spirit of our times and stimulates vigorously man's intellect and sentiment. Uncle Ho's death, I think, is the natural environment of man's intelligence and activity.

From the other side of the world, Fidel Castro also shared the same feeling: "In comrade Ho Chi Minh, death has generated life." I even go further: "As regards Uncle Ho and those who are treading in his steps, there is no death anniversaries, there are only birthdays."

His birthday is the birthday of each one of us, the birthday of intelligence, the birthday of strength. This has prompted me to title this article: *The Birthday of Intelligence.* I want Ho Chi Minh's intelligence to be the intelligence of you all, comrades, my intelligence, the intelligence of everyone.

Let the spirit of Ho Chi Minh era pervade our hearts. Let the fragrance from his flower garden penetrate our souls and radiate to all. Let us water the roses of the Ho Chi Minh soul with blood from our very hearts. Let us keep Uncle's birthday as the birthday of our intelligence. Let us weave with the finest threads from our souls the most delicate piece of silk of the Ho Chi Minh era. Don't let our intelligence slide into sluggishnes and servitude. Let us awaken it to commemorate its birthday, the birthday of Viet Nam's soul, which began in the recent past, which is going on in the present and will continue in the future.

How extraordinary is this association in my mind of Uncle Ho's death with his birthday!

Shall I borrow from Tagore his smile which likens his land to a singing musical instrument?

Here, Uncle's words to fighters, defenders of our land during a visit to the temple of the Hung Fathers come back to my mind: "The Hung Kings have founded the country. You have to defend it."

Dearest Uncle, our generation and the generations to come observe May 19, your birthday, as the birthday of intelligence.

Ho Chi Minh, the finest tree of the Viet Nam nursery.

Which has borne sweet blossom and succulent fruit,

Your posterity is carrying on your struggle to build a paradise on earth where independence, freedom and socialism prevail.

The Viet Nam cithara has been singing your praise.

Dear brothers and sisters, the place in the garden where I sat was swept by the wind and flooded by the light of May. The jade green mango foliage seemed to pay no heed to the explosions of B.52 bombings and continued to take in light, to produce more chlorophyll. I have named our garden after Ho Chi Minh.

NGUYEN HANH NGUYEN

"The New Intellectual" *Saigon May 1972*

the DRVN in brief

o At its recent regular session presided over by its Chairman Truong Chinh, the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee decided to confer the title of "Labour Hero" on 9 units and 7 individuals of the Communications and Transport Service on account of their meritorious services to production and the fighting.

The Committee warmly acclaimed the great achievements of this Service and praised the distinguished units and individuals for their heroic performance.

It heard a report delivered by Minister Xuan Thuy, Head of the DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference, on the situation of the Conference and the work of the delegation.

It unanimously approved the activity of the delegation and congratulated it on its correct execution of the foreign policy of the DRVN State.

It also decided a number of problems relating to the judicial work of the People's Supreme Court.

o In response to the appeal of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government, tens of thousands of youth in various localities across North Viet Nam have signed up for military service to fight the US aggressors.

In Lai Chau, young people of the Thai, Meo, Kinh, Xa, Puoc and other ethnic groups have held sessions to study the heroic Dien Bien Phu tradition and declared their readiness to join the army or combat and production shock brigades.

In Son La, after a study drive concerning the three major duties of the youth, over 1,000 applications have been filed for military service. Many villages have formed reservist teams and young men and women who have joined militia or guerilla teams have undergone military training under different combat plans, in firm determination to destroy the enemy in any circumstances and coming from whatever direction.

In a short period of time, the Military Command of Thai Nguyen City has received hundreds of applications filed by the local youth for military enlistment. Many families have volunteered to let their children serve as fighting men.

The City youth also volunteer to join reservist units and militia or self-defence teams and take up hard training, ready for combat action.

The College youth in Thai Binh province have enthusiastically signed up for military service. So far, hundreds of teachers and pupils of various high schools in the province have been called up.

Angered by the towering crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors against their cities, citizens of various districts of Hanoi and Haiphong have encouraged their children to go to the front.

The authority of the Foreign Trade College has received nearly 600 applications for military service filed by the students.

o During hot fighting in May, the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam duly punished all criminal steps of US war escalation and achieved glaring feats of arms. They shot down 93 US war planes, wiped out or captured many US pilots and shot ablaze US warships 13 times.

Between August 5, 1967 and May 31, 1972, 3,618 US planes in all were brought down in North Viet Nam.

Nguyen Hieu Lam, elite artilleryman of the DRVN Navy

Escalation and Counter-Escalation

THE exasperation of anti-war feeling in the US since May 5, 1972 has shed light on the Nixon Administration's misappraisal of public sentiment in 1972 and proved that the much-advertised foreign policy supported by the people at home is sheer wishful thinking.

Having got himself returned President in 1968 by taking advantage of the Johnson Administration's credibility gap among the Americans and the inner dissensions of the Democratic Party, Mr Nixon is more aware than anyone else that an unpopular foreign policy which alienates its author from his own party will be a great political peril in 1972. With a Viet Nam strategy plagued by contradictions with political and diplomatic tricks, he and his confederates have been striving to conciliate irreconcilable things, i.e. continuation and even widening of the disastrous aggression against Viet Nam and restoration of the masses' credibility regarding their administration.

For the latter purpose, the US President has been withdrawing US troops, scaling down the much-opposed draft. It has been reported that on his inauguration in 1969, he consulted many people on how to settle the Viet Nam issue, including Dean Acheson, State Secretary of the Truman administration who opined that in Viet Nam the US had too few troops to crush its adversary and too many to be acceptable by the American people. On the strength of this, Nixon spared no effort to perfect Johnson's "de-Americanization" into "Vietnamization." It is no accident that various cutbacks of troops in the past years have been given the full glare of publicity as well as the reduction by half of the Viet Nam war expenditure and eventual abolition of the selective service.

To preserve a "strong" US position on the battlefield while the phasing out of GI's is going on, Nixon has been trying hard to "change the complexion of the corpses" and stepping up the use of US airforce and navy. It is obvious that by so doing he hopes to placate public opinion at home.

It is also with the same aim in mind that he has been pretending "good will" and "seriousness" in the search for a negotiated settlement, and raising a diplomatic smokescreen for his intensification of the war to achieve a military decision and stopping at no heinous crimes against our people.

Recently, to the same effect, spectacular diplomatic moves have been resorted to to sell his desire to establish a "generation of peace" for the US. And the ulterior motive behind such antics in to strike the Viet Nam question off the list of election issues, push it back to the last pages of newspapers and defuse the anti-war outbursts of Americans.

BUT what has been actually happening has fallen short of Nixon's expectations. His new escalation has triggered a fresh wave of dissent. Tens of thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets in Washington, millions of them all over the country. This multitude has been stirred into widespread and persistent militant action by the realization of the unforeseeable consequences of his exercise in folly. The impetuous relevant reaction to his gamble has shown the high degree of maturity of the movement and the extent of erroneouness of his calculations.

The incumbent US President thinks that by cutting down American casualties the masses in the US will forgive him the higher toll of Vietnamese and Indochinese lives. In his view, the end justifies the means, and his eventual successes will justify the necessity to use atrocious extermination methods. This is however an unmistakable indication that he is out of touch with the sentiment of the people to whom a "cheap" victory, or a victory snatched by means of strategic bombings is no longer palatable. To their minds, it is not only not feasible but also morally objectionable (*International Herald Tribune*, April 18, 1972).

The flare-up of the anti-war protest occurred right during his news-making diplomatic manoeuvres allegedly aimed at bringing peace to the world. The timing and duration of various drives illustrated the growing impatience of the Americans with their ruler's double-dealing, however painstaking and cunning it may be.

Never has the Americans' confidence in their Chief Executive been so shaken. Never has their mistrust and contempt for a holder of the highest office in the US so deep. Their resentment is clear in such angry cries as: "Send Nixon to the chair" and "Drop Nixon on Haiphong."

WHETHER Mr Nixon likes it or not, Viet Nam is first and foremost among the Americans' preoccupations. It remains the greatest war since the end of the Second World War, the most costly war in terms of life and wealth ever waged by the US since its foundation. It has not ceased being the source of all material misfortunes and of an unprecedented ideological split in the American society. It continnes to be at the bottom of every feeling of insecurity at home, a feeling which the ruling circles dread very much. It keeps being a catalyst to the political and moral awakening of broad masses of Americans.

Stubborn and warlike by nature, the Nixon administration has displayed utter disregard for US public opinion when mapping out its foreign policy. Such an attitude will generate more and more difficulties for itself particularly in a year like this when an increasing number of Americans are battling with growing grimness for a change in policy and in the executive. As, in addition, our time is the time of far-reaching social upheavals in the world and of social explosions which the ruling class is unable to prevent with its traditional methods, no crime can pass not even unnoticed and no war act of any part of mankind can unfold unchallenged not even in the very place where it originates.

VAN DUC

Best wishes to Angela Davis

ANGELA DAVIS is acquitted. That's the decision the San Jose Court in California was forced to take at its session on June 4, after more than three months of trial.

At a press conference called immediately after her release, Angela Davis said: "My acquittal means that there was no fair trial because a fair trial would have been no trial at all."

Just so. By charging her with "murder, kidnap and conspiracy" and producing forged documents to sentence her to death or life imprisonment, the reactionary ruling circles in the United States hoped to roll back the rising movement of the progressive American people urging an end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam, racial discrimination, etc., of which Angela Davis is a courageous standard-bearer. But their infamous plot has been unmasked and foiled. They have sustained a stinging setback in face of the powerful and persistent struggle of Angela Davis herself and progressive people in the United States and the rest of the world.

Angela Davis has won. Twenty months behind bars had impaired her health, but not in the least her morale and fighting stamina. Each time the racist warmongers brought her to trial, she forcefully denounced: It is Nixon, Agnew, Regan and the like who are the veritable criminals in the US society. They represent the biggest robbers who are daily and hourly spoiling the world's people through exploitation and oppression. She reaffirmed that "I'm not going to allow that (repression and threats) to prevent me from becoming active in the liberation struggle." While her trial was under way, Angela sent to the Third Seminar on US genocidal crimes in Viet Nam held in Cuba her heartiest greetings. She wrote: "We Black Americans, Afro-Americans, and Asian-Americans are conscious that our struggle for freedom is our strongest support for our Vietnamese comrades including the support for the seven-point solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. It is incumbent on us Black people in America to openly declare our stand: "We support the liberation forces of Viet Nam." And right after the June 4 court session, Angela declared: "This is the happiest day of my life. I can begin to give all I have to free all political prisoners as oppressed people."

Angela Davis's victory is the victory of truth, justice and the strength of unity. Just as Angela and her defence lawyers have said, "this victory is a victory of the people, of the mass movement throughout the world," and it could not have come without the support of tens of thousands of men and women in the world."

This is also a victory of the people of South Viet Nam who have been perseveringly carrying out their resistance to the US imperialist aggression for their own independence and freedom and also for peace, democracy and progress of all nations in the world.

The South Viet Nam people who are waging a stubborn fight against the US imperialist aggressors warmly welcome the victory of Angela Davis which they regard as a common victory of the progressive people in the United States and the whole mankind now struggling for peace, democracy and social progress.

Inspired by this common victory, the South Viet Nam people convey to Angela Davis and the progressive people in America their greeting of "Solidarity and Determination to Win." Angela Davis, please accept here from South Viet Nam, the staunch combatants for independence and freedom, the best wishes of good health and success.

June 6 commemorated throughout the world

ON June 6, the whole progressive mankind marked the third founding anniversary of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government with messages of greeting to Presidents Nguyen Huu Tho and Huynh Tan Phat and to the South Vietnamese people from the President of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Premier of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia; the Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front; the leaders of the Communist and Workers' Parties and States of the Soviet Union, China, Korea, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Albania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania; the heads of State and Government of the Third World countries: Chile, Algeria, Egypt, the People's Republic of Congo, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Guinea, etc.; the leaders of Asian, African and Latin American national liberation movements. They voiced gratification at the momentous successes achieved by the South Vietnamese under the leadership of the NFL Central Committee and the PRG over recent years, and staunch support of thousands of millions of world's progressives to the anti-US resistance of the South Vietnamese until complete victory.

The message from L. Brejnev, N. Podgorny and A. Kosygin read:

"Fighting under the leadership of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people are recording new military, political and diplomatic successes against the imperialist aggressors and for national liberation. Loyal to her international duty, the Soviet Union will continue, as she has done, to grant every aid and assistance to their Vietnamese brothers."

The message from Tung Pi-wu and Chou En-lai wrote:

"As long as US imperialism does not stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina, and no matter what forms the war may assume, the Chinese people will, as always, staunchly support and assist the Vietnamese people and all the Indochinese peoples in their war of resistance until complete victory."

The message from Kim Il Sung and Choi Young Kun pointed out:

«Nomilitary venture, threat or treachery of the US imperialists can dampen the indomitable combat spirit of the heroic Vietnamesse people."

The message from Major Fidel Castro and Dr Osvaldo Dorticos pointed out:

"The whole world is following with increasing admiration the feats of the South Vietnamese people in their gallant fight against the US imperialist aggressors who are striving to stave off their inevitable and total defeat in South Viet Nam with all their brutal strength. For the peoples fighting for freedom, independence and national integrity, against the imperialist aggressive schemes and moves, the South Vietnamese people's epic is a source of great encouragement and unqualified faith in final victory."

The message from E. Honnecker, W. Ulbricht and W. Stoph stressed:

"By its all-round achievements, the Republic of South Viet Nam has been continually raising her prestige at home and abroad. Her image has also been given added lustre by her constructive proposals at the 4-party Conference in Paris, for political solution to the South Viet Nam problem."

Sincere words of encouragement and wishes for a speedy victory have also been received by the South Vietnamese in thousands of telegrams and letters from international and regional organizations, political parties, national bodies and individual citizens of France, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland..., sometimes through representatives of the PRG abroad. Such tokens of friendship included a message from André Monier, a retired French worker, with 500NF and this poem on VN:

"Guns firm in hands,

With the future as sole luggage,

Dreaming of the morrows as clear as mothers' voices.

They march on, resolute and proud and unbending through storms.

They rise from abysses of sufferings to the heights of heroism."

Many activities were used by the world's peoples to celebrate the founding anniversary of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government: receptions, meetings and rallies attended by big crowds, prominent political personalities and leaders of associations for solidarity with, and support for, Viet Nam, in the capitals and other cities of China, Korea, the Soviet Union, Eastern and Northern Europe, Cuba, Chile... Demonstrations broke out in Stockholm and other Swedish cities. New organizations in support of Viet Nam were formed in Norway. Collections were held in favour of the Vietnamese people: in a short time, tens of thousands of marks were collected by Marjatta, Chairman of the Finnish NFL Committee, and handed to Ho Minh Luong, representative of the RSVN Information Bureau in Helsinki, at a rally organized jointly by this NFL Committee and the Finland-Viet Nam Friendship Association. Exhibitions such as the ones entitled "Following the Path of President Ho Chi Minh," "The Heroic Struggle of the Vietnamese People," film shows, talks, special radio broadcasts, special issues of newspapers on Viet Nam... drew the attention of thousands in Chile, Hungary and other countries.

One cannot exhaust the list of initiatives of the progressive people throughout the world prompted by their love and admiration for Viet Nam. Neither can one depict their boundless friendship with Viet Nam, since "Viet Nam is fighting not only for her own sake but also for the whole progressive mankind's," as Sten Cederqvist, a Swedish trade union leader, said at a meeting in Stockholm on June 6. "The victory of the Vietnamese people," he added, "is the victory of the labouring people in the West, in Asia, Africa, Latin America... We support Viet Nam because the Vietnamese people are fighting for our own interests."

DAI LIEN

Demonstration in Stockholm against US aggression in Viet Nam

The new rise of the price of gold

THERE has been a rush to the gold counters of the world main money exchanges. The precious metal has experienced a sudden but foreseeable price hike, in relation to the dollar. On June 7, it was quoted 65.05 dollars an ounce in London, 64.75 dollars in Paris and 65.25 in Frankfurt, or a gain of 68 to 69% over the official rate fixed in December 1971 at 38 US dollars.

Gone is the day when the US dollars, as good as gold, ruled over world markets, recognized as international currency by the Bretton Woods agreements. The year 1949 saw the apex of the gold boom, backed by the huge stock in the Fort Knox vaults which represented 2/3 of the capitalist world's gold reserves.

Since the dollar has been an ailing currency as a result of the global strategy and expenditures for imperialistic purposes of various US presidents. The US aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina, swallowing each year more than 30 billion dollars, has dealt a staggering blow at the US economy and currency. While boasting about the successes of his "Vietnamization" scheme, Mr Nixon could not help scrapping the Bretton Woods accords by instituting the inconvertibility of the dollar and devaluating the latter from 35 to 38 dollars an ounce of gold.

What is at the bottom of the new and sharp fall of the dollar in relation to gold on the world market? *UPI* has given four reasons: 1 – the working of the supply and demands law; 2 – the Viet Nam war; 3 – the recent tour of former Secretary to the Treasury John Connally in different countries, and 4 – the eventual cut down in the supply of newly-extracted gold by the Republic of South African (*UPI* from London June 7, 1972).

Clearly enough, the cause deliberately listed number 2 is the first and foremost of them all. The stepped-up war of aggression in Viet Nam has hampered all economic recovery in the US and posed a serious threat to peace in Southeast Asia and in the world. Hence the slump recorded by the Dow-Jones index and the soaring up of the price of gold since the Nixon May 8 sabre-rattling.

Some economists have even predicted fresh scrambles for gold which may send its rate to 80 dollars an ounce, or more than twice the US-imposed price. In any case, there is no more question of restoring the dollar as a currency on a par with gold. At the 19th annual meeting of the IMF in May 1972 in Montreal (Canada) it was even proposed to oust it from its position as main international reserve money. Paper gold (special drawing rights) will replace it as such.

The American people have been paying dearly for the aggressive policy of their rulers. With clock-work regularity, escalation in Viet Nam and Indochina has been accompanied by a decline of US currency and economy.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION